

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-66

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT AND EXPANSION OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK AND URGING THAT THE MONUMENT PROVIDE MEANINGFUL AND DIRECT ACCESS FROM THE CITY OF COACHELLA.

WHEREAS, the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park contain spectacular public lands that are a scenic, environmental, economic, cultural, and recreational resource both locally as well as across our state; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park support year-round habitats for diverse wildlife such as desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, a wide variety of birds, and many other species; and

WHEREAS, publicly owned and federally managed desert lands constitute a public wildland resource of extraordinary and inestimable value and deserve to be protected for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, securing permanent protection for the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park will secure the quality of life and recreational opportunities directly related to our public lands for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that National Monuments create jobs and support positive economics for communities nearby; and

WHEREAS, these areas contain significant cultural, archeological, historic, and scientific values worthy of permanent protection; and

WHEREAS, it remains in the City's interest to maintain and protect the California desert as a recreational resource and a place for citizens of and visitors to City of Coachella to recreate, spend time with family, or simply gaze into the night sky;

WHEREAS, the City of Coachella General Plan 2035 Sustainability and Natural Environment Element Policy 13.13 calls for the creation of nature access and working with County Tribal Governments and other recreation and open space districts to create desert preserves with hiking trails, nature observing areas and picnic areas.

WHEREAS, the City of Coachella General Plan 2035 Sustainability and Natural Environment Element Policy 13.16 encourages parks and trails to be designed to conserve scenic and natural features and encourage public awareness of Coachella's unique geography.

WHEREAS, the City of Coachella strongly urges that the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument include direct and meaningful access from the City of Coachella as the City of Coachella remains as one of the few Coachella Valley cities with access to natural trails.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Coachella hereby affirms its support for the establishment via legislation or executive action of the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City Council asks President Biden to designate the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument and expansion of Joshua Tree National Park promptly through Presidential proclamation via the Antiquities Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the City Council hereby directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to United States President Joe Biden, Representative Raul Ruiz, Senator Laphonza Butler and Senator Alex Padilla.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 25th day of October 2023.

Steven A. Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela M. Zepeda
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF COACHELLA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 2023-66 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Coachella at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 25th day of October 2023, by the following vote of Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Delia Granados
Deputy City Clerk